
From: HJR153
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2004 4:25 PM
To: HJR153
Subject: HJR153 - James P. Nickols

Name: James P. Nickols
Street: 4504 Timber Lane
City, State, Zip: Williamsburg, VA 23188
Phone Number:
Email: prnickols@cox.net
Utility Type: all
Company Name: Old Dominion

Comments: There are wind storms, tornadoes, ice storms and hurricanes in the Hampton Roads area that play havoc with delivering a stable source of power to Hampton Roads residents because the utility wires are exposed rather than buried underground. We have the solution to our power needs, but do we have the will do martial the resources to make it happen? I am hope so. That is why I am writing this comment.

The benefits are: protecting the source of energy from turbulent and violent weather, eliminating the danger to public safety from downed power lines, and removing unsightly utility poles and wires.

Although the article in Sunday's Daily Press mentioned that underground cables are difficult to repair, I believe that is a problem that can be worked through with some ingenuity. There is a huge cost when businesses lose power, e.g., food spoilage for restaurants, supermarkets, etc. There is loss the revenue for the power companies, and there are other "hidden" costs.

I recommend the utility lines be buried in the major popluation areas first (urban and suburban). The cost might be shared by the local government, state government, federal government and the power companies (through tax incentives?). I want to see an attitude of how can we make this possible rather than "it can't be done." As Stephen Covey (Seven Habits of Highly Effective People) asks, "what is the third option?" Finding the third option is the way to achieve success.

I believe we ought to have a state law that all utility lines be buried. Such a law will inspire the research to improve the delivery of power to utility customers and improve neighborhood safety and improve the aesthetics of Virginia's landscape.